

OBJECTION TO TITLE:

The title has been replaced to address the objection.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103:

Applicant respectively traverses all rejections.

Claim 1 is allowable over Buckley. Note that the amendment of claim 1 is to address an antecedent basis problem. The amendment of claim 1 does not change the scope of the claim.

Claim 1 recites a method of communicating in a network having a plurality of communities each including a server, the method comprising receiving, from the server in a first community, a *request indicating desired real-time, text-based messaging* from a first terminal coupled to the first community server to a second terminal coupled to the server in a second community. The method further comprises processing the request, by the server in the second community, to establish a *real-time, text-based messaging session* between the first and second terminals through the first and second community servers.

There is no indication anywhere in Buckley of a request indicating desired *real-time, text-based messaging* or processing the request to establish the *real-time, text-based messaging session*.

What is disclosed in Buckley is a proposed solution to adding extended information (outside the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol or SMTP) to electronic mail messages. The problem described in Buckley is that such extended or additional information are typically lost in conventional systems. Throughout the Background section and Detailed Description section of Buckley, reference is made to e-mail messages sent between client systems. In fact, the entire description of Figs. 2 and 3 (cited in the Office Action) refers to communication of e-mail messages (7:43-8:62). The communication of e-mail messages does *not* constitute a request indicating desired *real-time, text-based messaging* or establishing a *real-time, text-based messaging session* between first and second terminals through first and second community servers.

The definition of real-time, text-based messaging is well supported in the present application. For example, the specification of the present application the passage on page 4, at

line 27 through page 5, at line 3 provides a definition of real-time, text-based messaging according to some embodiments. In fact, the passage makes a distinction between real-time, text-based messaging and traditional electronic mail messaging.

Fig. 4 of Buckley provides additional support for the fact that Buckley does not suggest the present invention. Fig. 4 shows the steps that occur when a message is transferred according to RFC 821 and 822 sessions, which involve mail servers (a sending mail server 92 and a receiving mail server 94) (8:43-47). When sending an e-mail message, the sending mail server 92 initiates a connection to the mail server 94. After the connection has been established, the sending mail server 92 transfers the 821 envelope information to the receiving mail server 94. After the 821 envelope information has been transferred, the 822 message information is transferred next. Finally, after all 822 message data has been transferred, *the connection is terminated* in terminate connection step 104 (8:51-9:1). This is a classic example of how e-mail messages are sent--a connection is established, the e-mail message is sent, and the connection is *terminated*. This indicates that real-time, text-based messaging is *not* involved.

Claim 1 is thus not disclosed or suggested by Buckley. Due to the significant differences between the subject matter of the invention and the disclosure of Buckley, many of the elements of the dependent claims of claim 1 are also not disclosed or suggested.

Independent claim 9 is also allowable over Buckley. Claim 9 recites a method of communicating that comprises receiving, at a server, a request to contact a user, and accessing *predetermined information to determine a plurality of devices* that may be employed for communicating with the user. The method further comprises sending a message to at least one of the plurality of devices. The Office Action pointed to Figs. 2 and 3 and the passage at column 8, lines 15-62, and column 16, lines 23-56, as teaching the element of accessing predetermined information to determine a plurality of devices that may be employed for communicating with the user. The cited passage in column 8 refers to the transfer of an e-mail message from a user 68 through a mail server 80, an SMTP network 82, and a mail server 84 to a second user. There is no indication anywhere in the cited passage of column 8 of "predetermined information to determine a plurality of devices that may be employed for communicating with the user." The passage cited in column 16 also does not teach such predetermined information. Thus, the § 102 rejection of claim 9 is improper and should be withdrawn.

With respect to independent claim 14, Buckley does not disclose or suggest a system having a storage unit containing *information identifying a plurality of devices that may be used to contact a user*, and an interface unit adapted to send a message to at least one of the devices.

Independent claim 19 is also allowable over Buckley. Claim 19 recites a server having an interface unit adapted to receive a contact request over the network from an entity associated with another community, the entity not logged onto the server. The contact request indicates a request to establish a text-based messaging session with a destination terminal linked to the server. The server of claim 19 also includes a controller adapted to send a notification to the destination terminal of the contact request and to receive an indication from the destination terminal of acceptance of the contact request. With communication of e-mail messaging as performed in Buckley, there is no feedback disclosed in Buckley of an indication from the destination terminal of acceptance of the contact request.

Independent claim 20 is also allowable over Buckley. Claim 20 recites an article including one or more machine-readable storage media containing instructions that when executed cause a system in a first community associated with a first service provider to receive a request from a subscriber in a second community associated with a second service provider, the request indicating a desired text-based messaging session with a subscriber in the first community. Also, the instructions cause the system to notify the subscriber in the first community of the request, and to determine if the subscriber in the first community has accepted the request. The instructions cause the system to further establish the text-based messaging session between the subscribers if the subscriber in the first community accepted. Note that the notification and acceptance communications performed by the system in claim 20 in response to execution of instructions are not necessary at all in the e-mail communications disclosed in Buckley.

Independent claim 25 is allowable for reasons similar to those of claim 9.

Newly added independent claim 31 is also allowable over Buckley. DeSimone does not suggest a modification of the disclosure of Buckley that would teach the subject of the claims. For the foregoing reasons, all independent claims are allowable over the cited references. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as corresponding independent claims.

Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (NORT-0010-US)

Respectfully submitted,

7/3/01
Date


Dan C. Hu, Reg. No. 40,025
Trop, Pruner & Hu, P.C.
8554 Katy Freeway, Ste. 100
Houston, TX 77024
713/468-8880
713/468-8883 [fax]

VERSION WITH MARKINGS INDICATING CHANGES TO CLAIMS

Claim 26 has been cancelled. New claims 27-31 have been added. Amend the following claims as indicated (un-amended claims in smaller font):

- 1 1. (Amended) A method of communicating in a network having a plurality of
2 communities each including a server, the method comprising:
3 receiving, from the server in a first community, a request indicating desired real-
4 time, text-based messaging from a first terminal coupled to the first community server to a
5 second terminal coupled to the server in a second community; and
6 processing the request, by the server in the second community, to establish [the] a
7 real-time, text-based messaging session between the first and second terminals through the first
8 and second community servers.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining if the second terminal has an established
2 link with the second community server.

- 1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising sending a notification to the second terminal of the
2 desired messaging session if the second terminal has an established link with the second community server.

- 1 4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising receiving an indication
2 from the second terminal of whether the desired messaging session has been accepted.

- 1 5. The method of claim 2, further comprising sending a message to a predetermined communications
2 device other than the second terminal if the second terminal does not have an established connection with the second
3 community server.

- 1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein sending the messages includes sending to a communications
2 device including at least one of a telephone, a pager, and an electronic mail receiver.

- 1 7. The method of claim 2, further comprising performing a reverse log on to the second terminal if
2 the second terminal does not have an established link with the second community server.

- 1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising establishing a chat session between the first and second
2 terminals.

1 9. A method of communicating in a system having a server, comprising:
2 receiving, at the server, a request to contact a user;
3 accessing predetermined information to determine a plurality of devices that may be employed for
4 communicating with the user; and
5 sending a message to at least one of the plurality of devices.

1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising storing the predetermined information
2 listing a plurality of devices including a telephone and at least one other device.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein sending a message to the telephone includes sending it to a
2 public switched telephone network.

1 12. The method of claim 10, further comprising converting a message into voice data to send to the
2 telephone.

1 13. The method of claim 10, wherein the at least one other device is a non-voice device.

1 14. A system comprising:
2 a controller adapted to receive a request for establishing a messaging session with a user;
3 a storage unit containing information identifying a plurality of devices that may be used to contact
4 the user; and
5 an interface unit adapted to send a message to at least one of the devices.

1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the information identifies a voice device and at least another
2 device.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the voice device includes a telephone.

1 17. The system of claim 15, wherein the at least one other device includes a non-voice device.

1 18. The system of claim 15, further comprising a data-to-voice converter to convert data into voice.

1 19. A server for use in a communications system having a plurality of communities coupled by a
2 network, each community associated with a different service provider, the server being associated with a first one of
3 the communities and comprising:

4 an interface unit adapted to receive a contact request over the network from an entity associated
5 with another community, the entity not logged on to the server, the contact request indicating a request to establish a
6 text-based messaging session with a destination terminal linked to the server; and

7 a controller adapted to send a notification to the destination terminal of the contact request and to
8 receive an indication from the destination terminal of acceptance of the contact request.

1 20. An article including one or more machine-readable storage media containing instructions for
2 establishing a text-based messaging session between subscribers in a plurality of communities, each community
3 associated with a different service provider, the instructions when executed causing a system in a first community
4 associated with a first service provider to:

5 receive a request from a subscriber in a second community associated with a second service
6 provider, the request indicating a desired text-based messaging session with a subscriber in the first community;

7 notify the subscriber in the first community of the request;

8 determine if the subscriber in the first community has accepted the request; and

9 establish the text-based messaging session between the subscribers if the subscriber in the first
10 community accepted.

1 21. The article of claim 20, wherein the one or more storage media contain instructions that when
2 executed cause the system to further send signaling to establish the text-based messaging session.

1 22. The article of claim 20, wherein the text-based messaging session includes a chat session.

1 23. The article of claim 20, wherein the one or more storage media contain instructions that when
2 executed cause the system to create a controller object adapted to control the text-based messaging session.

1 24. The article of claim 20, wherein the one or more storage media contain instructions that when
2 executed cause the system to:

3 receive a request from a subscriber in a third community associated with a third service provider
4 for a text-based messaging session; and

5 establish the text-based messaging session among the subscribers in the first, second, and third
6 communities.

1 25. A data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising one or more code segments containing
2 instructions for communicating in a network having a server, the instructions when executed causing the server to:
3 receive a request to contact a user;
4 access predetermined information to determine a plurality of devices that may be employed for
5 communicating with the user; and
6 send a message to at least one of the plurality of devices.

1 27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the request comprises receiving
2 a request indicating a desired interactive, text-based chat session.

1 28. (New) The server of claim 19, wherein the text-based messaging session
2 comprises an interactive, text-based chat session.

1 29. (New) The server of claim 19, wherein the controller is adapted to further send
2 messaging to perform a reverse log-on procedure with the destination terminal.

1 30. (New) The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 system to establish the text-based messaging session by establishing an interactive, text-based
3 chat session.

1 31. (New) A server for use in a communications system having a plurality of
2 communities coupled by a network, each community associated with a different service provider,
3 comprising:

4 an interface adapted to receive a request from a first community to establish an
5 interactive, text-based chat session between a first terminal in the first community and a second
6 terminal in a second community; and
7 a controller adapted to process the request on behalf of the second terminal in the
8 second community to establish the interactive, text-based chat session.